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them, advocated the rule of law and advocated for creating a student experience which moved the students closer to an early understanding of the privileges and responsibilities of American journalists as defined by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Let me tell you what the bill does now, and let me tell you right off, if you want to flip to the committee amendment on your computer, that the bill is the committee amendment: the committee amendment is the compromise that is accepted, that was accepted by all sides on this issue, so far as I know. And I want to stop at that point and specifically thank Senator Brashear for making a huge effort in finding a compromise on this issue, which I hope can command a The title is somewhat of a misnomer in the sense consensus. that it doesn't transfer wholesale to any student or group of students a complete right of free expression not in an absolute sense, not even in the sense that adults and people in private enterprise can exercise that right in America. So don't let What the...what the compromise does is that mislead you. essentially curtail, to some degree, the latitude of administrators to deal with student publications arbitrarily. They can still deal with them to the extent that they want, but not arbitrarily, and what do I mean by that? Here's how it First of all, let me say that this bill applies would work. only to public schools, it does not apply to private schools. And if you look at Section 4 on the committee amendment, that is the heart of the bill. And in Section 4 it sets out a two-tiered approach of standards that would be used by public administrations in dealing with student publications. And the first rule is simply this, that where the applicable school board has adopted a publications code, which they are allowed to do under this bill, then the student material that's published has to be consistent with that code and, basically, they can make any kind of a code they want. They can make it They can make it liberal. They can get together with other school districts and have a model code, or they can have Or...or they can choose to let the individual code. statute be their code. If they choose to have no code, then subsection (2) of Section 4 is what governs and let me read that to you because I think it's a very good rule in and of itself. I'm anticipating that there wouldn't be a very felt need to develop a publications code. What subsection (2) says that where the applicable school board has not adopted a publications